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Speech given at the Memorial Cairn Ceremony, 21 December 2010

“I am sorry we ever had to meet, but I am so glad I know you.” The first time I heard that statement, many years ago, I failed to totally comprehend its meaning. Then I got to know many of you, brought together by an act of incredible hate which took place 22 years ago today. I remember how I felt when I heard that Pan Am Flight 103 had crashed near Lockerbie. I first prayed for those who died. As an FBI agent, I wanted to know what happened and, if proven to be a crime, I hoped we could bring those responsible to justice. We would later learn that 400 parents lost a child, 65 women lost husbands, 11 men lost wives and 45 parents lost an only child. The average age of those killed was 27. Sixteen were under the age of 10 and 65 were college students—35 from Syracuse University alone.

The pace of the investigation was maddeningly slow. Police in Scotland did an incredible job of collecting evidence in what would become the largest crime scene in history. This crime also would test international resolve in combating terrorism. Cooperation and sharing of information could have been better early on, but eventually the Scottish police, the FBI and intelligence and police agencies around the world began to work together in ways we never dreamed imaginable. I recall speaking to the American families in Albany in January 1990 and hearing frustration expressed about what many believed—we were not making any progress. Small fragments of evidence and analysis of other information which we were developing was beginning to tell us what had happened. While I could not say much, I did say that the persons who killed your loved ones would have to pay for what they did.

While I found some solace -- and hope you did as well -- in the indictment of two and the conviction of one, I have always known that others were involved. I will forever be affected by our inability to take the investigation further. The events of the past year have been especially galling to us involved in the investigation but far more so to you. We know what we did and we know it was right.

You have all been affected forever by these events. I cannot feel your pain. I do hope that no one else ever has to go through what those of you who lost family and friends at Lockerbie have endured. Our world is more dangerous today than it was in 1988. During 2009 there were nearly 11,000 terrorist attacks which killed 15,000 people worldwide. Every day we read stories about terrorist plots which have been interdicted here at home and I am confident that those who followed us have learned from some of our mistakes. Our law enforcement and intelligence agencies need to continue to work together and share information to prevent these horrific crimes.

I learned a great many lessons during my association with this investigation –better sharing of information and paying attention to detail, but I also learned how to better to work with “victims,” and I use that word carefully. Rarely do FBI agents personally deal with victims of violent crimes or their families. While we used to refer to those of you who lost friends and family at Lockerbie as victims, it took me some time to know that was the wrong word.

Webster’s defines a victim as “someone killed, destroyed or injured or harmed by or suffering from some act, condition or circumstances.” I hope future dictionaries include the definition you have given to that word—“agents of change.” You have set the standard. You questioned the Government. While

you were interested in justice, you also wanted to answer the deeper questions of why did this happen and what can we do to ensure it never happens again?

Since 1988 I have gotten to know many of you. I have learned of memorials which have been created, college scholarships which have been endowed, and local governments which have benefitted from your donations of not only money but time. I have met some of the Lockerbie Remembrance Scholars who are attending Syracuse University. I have been to Long Island and seen the moving memorial which is Dark Elegy. You have achieved the passage of the Aviation Security and Improvement Act of 1990 which made flying safer for all of us. You ensured that our Government was accountable—not only to find and punish those responsible for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 but to ensure there would be no more warnings made known to Government officials but not to the travelling public. Many of you have worked behind the scenes, making life better for all of us. You have been vocal and outspoken in your views with Government leaders, not because it benefitted you personally, but because it was the right thing to do.

I am reminded of the words of the Irish philosopher and statesman, Edmund Burke who said, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” You saw to it that evil would not triumph. Your efforts, although largely unknown to most, are sincerely appreciated by us all.

Thank you for your unwavering support of the investigators, the prosecutors and intelligence agents around the world who worked for you.

It is sad when any life is taken too early whether it is 82 year old Jean Aitken Murray or 2 month old Brittany Leigh Williams. But, if they could talk to us today, they too would say “Thank you.” You have made a difference in our world. We owe you a debt of gratitude for what you have done these past 22 years. The 270 people, whose names you have heard read today, are gone but not forgotten. I will not forget them. I will not forget you. I have often read the words taken from Karen Lee Hunt’s journal. I think she would be pleased that her words are used this afternoon.

“Something has happened

To keep us apart

But always and forever

You’re in my heart

Someday soon

From Now ‘till forever

I’ll meet you again

And we’ll be together

I’m not sure how

And I'm not sure when

Together, forever

Somewhere, my friend."

Thank you for persevering and being who you are. Thank you for your support and friendship. I am sorry we ever had to meet. But, I AM so glad I know you. God bless all the victims of Pan Am Flight 103. God bless you all and God bless our great country.